

Consequences of COVID-19 for cancer research projects funded by the Dutch Cancer Society

A survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the progress of cancer research

June 2020



A survey on the impact of COVID-19 on DCS-funded cancer research

Aim

- ✓ Identify how many DCS research projects have been (partially) discontinued due to COVID-19.
- ✓ Investigate the main reasons for the (partial) discontinuation of DCS research projects.
- ✓ Determine the delay of (partially) discontinued DCS research projects.

Method

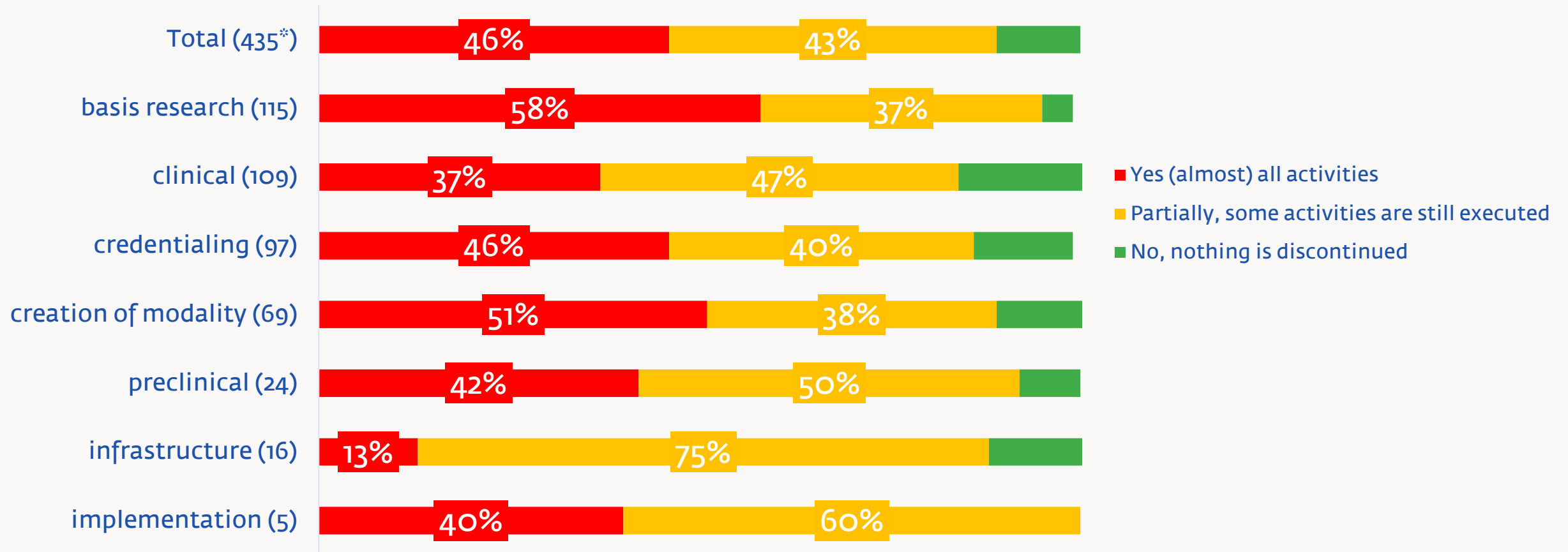
- ✓ On Thursday the 30th of April project leaders received an invitation to participate in this survey. The invitation was sent by e-mail including a link to the questionnaire.
- ✓ Each project leader has received a personalised questionnaire with questions about his/her DCS research project(s).
- ✓ The survey was finalised on Tuesday the 2nd of June.

Response

- ✓ n = 395 project leaders of DCS research projects have received a digital questionnaire.
- ✓ n = 341 project leaders have answered the questionnaire.
- ✓ The response of the survey is 86%.

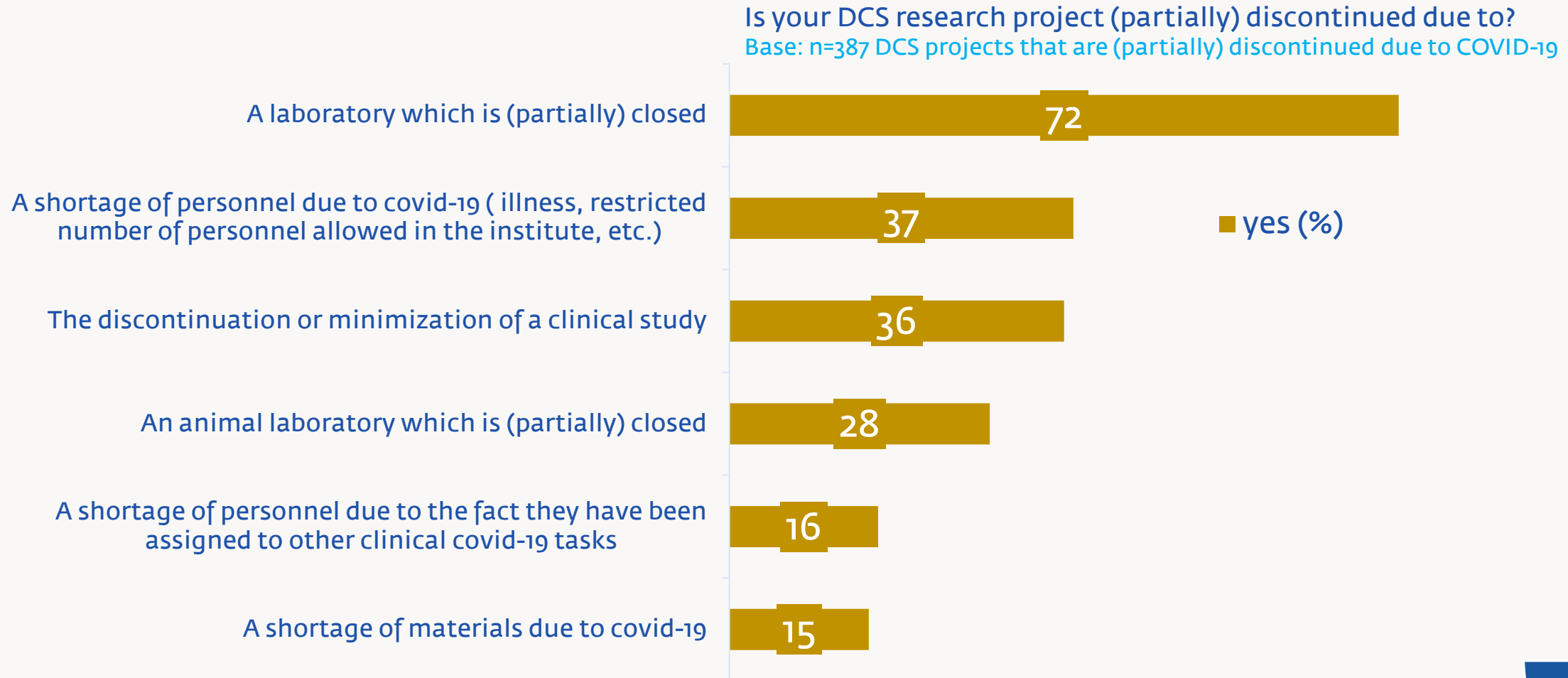
89% of the DCS research projects are (partially) discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Have ongoing research activities within your DCS projects been (partially) discontinued due to COVID-19? Base: n=435 DCS research projects



* = number of DCS research projects

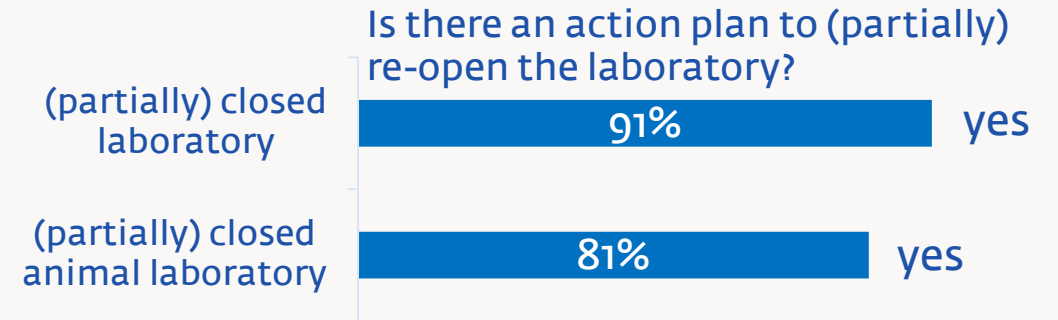
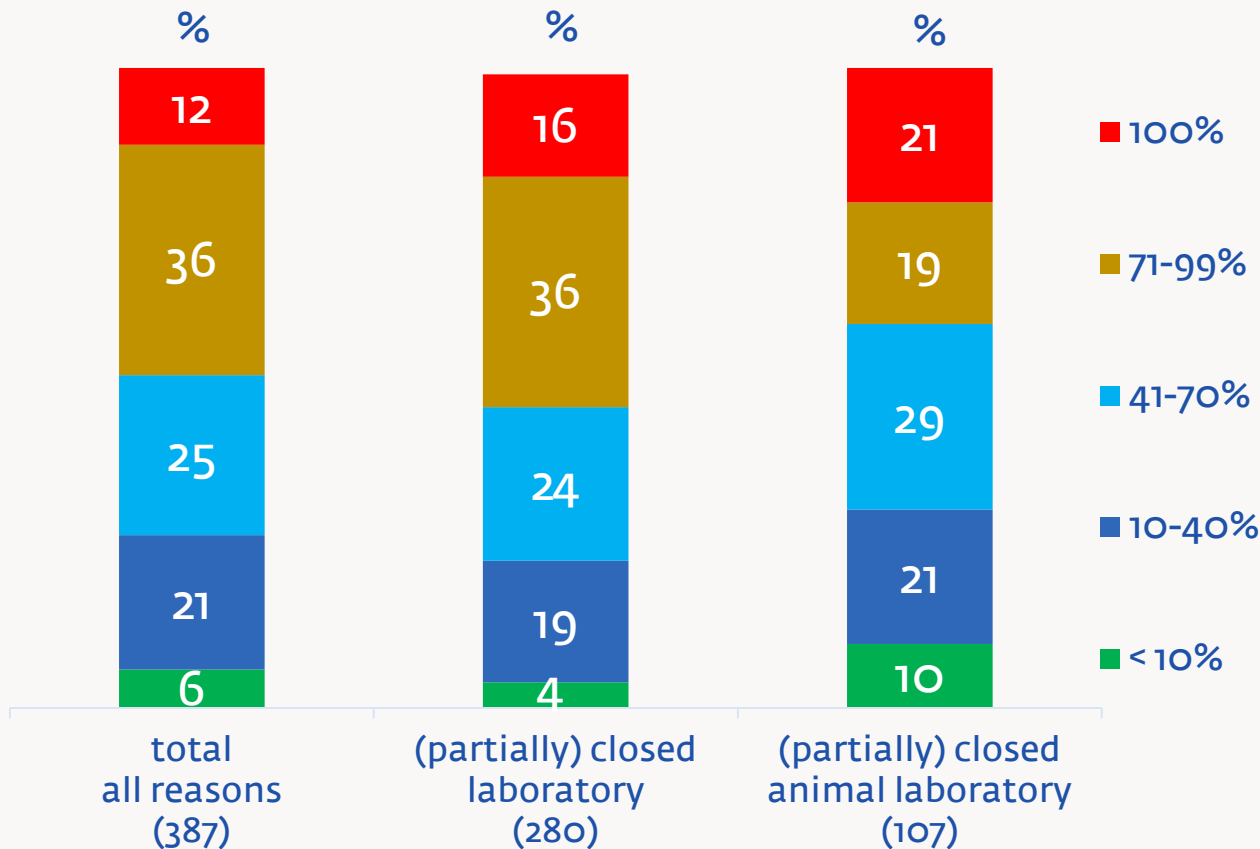
72% of the (partially) discontinued DCS projects are discontinued due to a laboratory that is (partially) closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



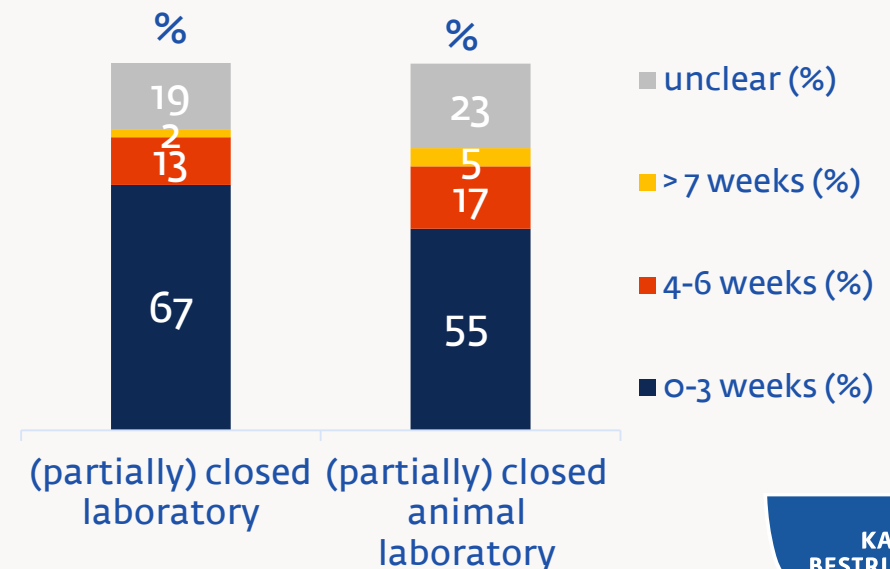
Due to a (partially) closed laboratory or animal laboratory over 70% of the (partially) discontinued DCS projects cannot perform a significant part (> 40%) of their current research activities. Most laboratories have an action plan for a (partial) re-opening.

Which part of the current research activities of your project cannot be performed?

Base: DCS projects that are (partially) discontinued



When is the laboratory expected (partially) to re-open?



Due to COVID-19 the inclusion of new patients is postponed for 59% of the clinical studies. The expected delay of the inclusion of new patients is 3 to 6 months.

